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REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's review of the specification, claims, and drawings and thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended to Mr. Burkhart during the personal interview on March 8, 2006. In light of the above amendments and following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application. The amendments and remarks presented herein are fully supported by the application as originally filed. No new matter has been entered.

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-9 and 11-52 are pending in the application. Claim 10 has been cancelled herein.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS:

Claim 11 is objected to because "indexing group of totes" should read, -indexing said group of totes-.

Applicants have amended Claim 11 as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the claim be reconsidered and withdrawn.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112:

The Examiner rejects Claims 5, 6, 13, 37, 38, and 48 under 37 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.

Applicants have amended Claims 5 and 6 to delete the reference to "said indicating" in light of the amendments made to Claims 5 and 6.

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With reference to Claims 37 and 38, neither claim refers to "said indicating".

Therefore, no amendments have been made to these claims.

In reference to Claim 11, Claim 11 has been amended to recite "the group of totes" rather than "groups of totes".

Further, with respect to Claim 13, as correctly noted by the Examiner, Claim 13 should depend from Claim 12, which provides antecedent basis for the claim language.

With regard to Claim 48, "said providing a plurality of totes" in line 1 has now been deleted.

Accordingly, in light of the above amendments, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph rejection of the claims.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102:

The Examiner rejects Claims 1-52 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,509,538 to Spindler.

Applicants have amended independent Claims 1, 12, 24, and 30, and 41 to more clearly define Applicants' invention. With respect to Claim 1, Claim 1 now calls for:

A method of picking products in a pick-to-light system, said method comprising:
arranging products in a first row of adjacent picking locations wherein the products are available for picking;
aligning a group of totes with each of the picking locations;
aligning a first group of totes of the first group of totes at a first picking location;
locating an indicator at each picking location;
indicating a given tote in the first group of totes
with a first indicator of said indicators at the first picking location;
indicating products to be picked for the given tote;

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picking and placing the indicated products in the given tote from the first picking location; and
indexing the first group of totes from the first
picking location to another picking location in a direction parallel
to the row of adjacent picking locations when the indicated
products are picked for each given tote in the first group of totes at the first picking location.

With respect to Claim 12, Claim 12 has been amended to call for:

A method of picking products in a pick-to-light
system, said method comprising:

providing products in a first row of picking bays,
each of the picking bays having an induct side and a discharge
side;

providing products in a second row of picking bays
spaced from and parallel to the first row of picking bays, each of
the picking bays of the second row having an induct side and a
discharge side;

forming an aisle between the discharge sides of the
first and second rows of picking bays;

providing access across the aisle to an operator
wherein the operator may move between the discharge sides of the
first and second rows of picking bays;

aligning a first group of totes with the discharge
side of an upstream picking bay in the first row;

aligning a second group of totes with the discharge
side of an upstream picking bay in the second row;

indicating a product or products in the upstream
picking bay of the first row to be picked by the operator for a tote
in the first group of totes;

indicating a product or products in the upstream
picking bay of the second row to be picked by the operator for a
tote in the second group of totes; and

indexing a respective group of totes of said first and second groups
of totes to a downstream picking bay in its respective row when the
indicated product or products have been picked and placed by the
operator in a direction parallel to the first and second rows of
picking bays wherein the operator may continue to pick at another
picking bay.

With respect to Claim 24, Claim 24 has been amended to call for:

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A pick-to-light system comprising:
means for supporting products in first and second parallel, spaced apart rows and for grouping the products in a plurality of picking locations;
means for aligning a first group of totes adjacent a first picking location in said first row;
means for aligning a second group of totes adjacent a first picking location in said second row;
means for identifying each tote within said groups of totes;
means for indicating which products are to be picked for and placed in a given tote of the groups of totes at said first picking locations;
means for indexing said second group of totes from said first picking location in said second row in a direction parallel to said first and second rows;
means for indexing said first group of totes from said first picking location in said first row in a direction parallel to said first and second rows; and
a control system for actuating a respective means of said means for indexing when the products for a respective first picking location are picked.

With respect to Claim 30, Claim 30 has been amended to call for:

A pick-to-light system comprising:
a plurality of racks supporting groups of products in first and second parallel rows of adjacent picking locations;
a plurality of totes;
a first conveyor for supporting a first group of said totes adjacent a first picking location of said first row;
a second conveyor for supporting a second group of said totes adjacent a first picking location of said second row; and
a control system for identifying selected products to be picked for a given tote and detecting when the selected products are picked for the given tote, and said control system actuating said first conveyor to index said first groups of totes to another picking location in said first row in a direction parallel to said first and second rows when the selected products of the first picking location in said first row have been picked and placed in each given tote of said first groups of totes and actuating said second conveyor to index said second groups of totes to another picking

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location in said second row in a direction parallel to said first and second rows when the selected products of the first picking location in the second row have been picked and placed in each of the given totes of said second group of totes.

With respect to Claim 41, Claim 41 has been amended to call for:

A method of picking products in a pick-to-light system, said method comprising:

providing products in a first row of picking bays, each of the picking bays having an induct side and a discharge side;

providing products in a second row of picking bays spaced from and parallel to the first row of picking bays, each of the picking bays of the second row having an induct side and a discharge side;

forming an aisle between the discharge sides of the first and second rows of picking bays, the aisle extending in a direction parallel to the first and second rows of picking bays;

providing access across the aisle to an operator wherein the operator may move between the discharge sides of the first and second rows of picking bays;

aligning a first tote with the discharge side of a first picking bay in the first row;

aligning a second tote with the discharge side of a first picking bay in the second row;

indicating a product or products in the first picking bay of the first row to be picked by the operator for the first tote;

indicating a product or products in the first picking bay of the second row to be picked by the operator for the second tote; and

indexing a respective tote of the first and second totes to a second picking bay in a respective row of the first and second rows in a direction parallel to the first and second rows when the indicated product or products have been picked and placed in the respective tote by the operator wherein the operator may continue to pick at another picking bay.

With respect to Claim 1, Applicants respectfully urge that Spindler does not disclose or suggest, for example, aligning a first group of totes at a first picking location in

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combination with indicating a given tote in the first group of totes with a first indicator at the first picking location and, further, indexing the first group of totes from the first picking location to another picking location, in a direction parallel to the row of adjacent picking locations. As noted during the interview, Spindler does not disclose a row of adjacent picking locations nor aligning a group of totes adjacent each picking location. In contrast, Spindler discloses a plurality of spaced flow racks at the end of which is aligned a single tote for placement of the products by a worker, for example, identified by the numeral 20 in FIG. 1. Furthermore, Spindler discloses a tug to move a plurality of cars with each including a pick and put display. Therefore, Applicants respectfully urge that Spindler does not disclose or suggest the claimed combination.

With respect to Claim 12, Claim 12 has been amended to clarify that the rows of picking bays are parallel and, further, that the groups of totes are indexed in a direction parallel to the first and second rows of picking bays. A similar change has been made to Claims 24, 30, and, further, Claim 41. Applicants respectfully urge that Spindler does not disclose parallel first and second rows of picking bays with a group of totes indexed in a direction parallel to the first and second rows of picking bays. Nor would it be obvious to modify Spindler to meet the claimed combination. Therefore, Applicants respectfully urge that Claims 1-52 are patentably distinguishable over Spindler alone or in combination with any other reference of record.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance and solicits a Notice to that effect.

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Should the Examiner have any questions or suggestions, he is invited to contact
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Respectfully submitted,

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